

**LAKE BLUFF PARK DISTRICT
MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING
SUNRISE PARK AND BEACH ADVISORY COMMITTEE
APRIL 29, 2013**

The Special Meeting of the Sunrise Park and Beach Advisory Committee of the Lake Bluff Park District, Lake County, Illinois, was held at the Lake Bluff Park District Recreation Center, 355 W. Washington Avenue, Lake Bluff, Illinois.

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m.

The following members were present when the roll was called: Brock Gordon, Steve Christensen, Jill Danly, Pat Falligant, Toni Terrill, and Bob Wallace.

Members present after the roll call were Geoff Surkamer and Bill Hermann (arrived at 6:34 p.m.), and Sophie Twichell (arrived at 6:46 p.m.).

Member Jim Salanty was absent.

Staff members present were Ron Salski, Executive Director; Ed Heiser, Superintendent of Facility Services & Head Golf Professional; and Rob Foster, Superintendent of Golf & Parks Maintenance.

Also present were residents Bill Nordeen, Kurt Gronau, Kevin Considine, Al Trefts, Greg and Sue Belner, John and Karen Crotty, Sally and Tom Coyle, Peter Arnstein; Larry McCotter from LBOLA (Lake Bluff Open Lands Association); and Michelle Kelly and Maria Soyan from Upland Design.

Approval of Agenda

Member Christensen moved, seconded by Member Wallace, to approve the April 29, 2013 Agenda with the following changes:

Under II. New Business, move Item A to Item B, Item B to Item C, Item C to Item D and Add new Item A. *Report from Chairman of Friends of Lake Bluff Parks Foundation (FLBP)*

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS – DISCUSSION ITEMS

Report from Chairman of FLBP

Chairman Arnstein presented information on the Lake Bluff Block Party to be held on June 20, 2013, from 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. He advised that funds generated from this event will go directly to the Sunrise Beach improvement fund.

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Director Salski commented that if anyone wants to volunteer their time to help at the Block Party, or if anyone knows of a possible sponsorship, please contact Chairman Arnstein.

Director Salski explained that Requests For Proposals (RFPs) were sent out seeking a landscape design/architectural firm to prepare a master plan for Sunrise Park and Beach. Five proposals were received and, after interviews by both Board and Committee Members, Upland Design Ltd. was chosen. He explained that the deadline for submittal for a matching OSLAD Grant for this project is July 1, 2013. A concept plan with the right elements is needed for this submittal, and work will then continue on more specific details.

Director Salski said there would be a joint Committee/Board Meeting on May 6th, and an Open House for the community on May 15th.

Michelle Kelly, Principal from Upland Design Ltd., explained that feedback received from the Joint Park Board Meeting of April 22, 2013, was incorporated into two site plans which she referred to as Concept A and Concept B. Out of all the ideas presented at that meeting, there were only four unanimous no items: two-way drive, electric gate, paved special events area, and maze garden. New ideas mentioned in the Program Survey included: Use the roof of the NSSD Building as a lookout point, add landscaping at the entrances, hide the garbage cans, put information on the Park District website about wind speeds and temperatures.

Ms. Kelly described the features of Concept A as follows: More beach area; steel groins would be changed to stone groins; groin on the north beach would be removed to increase the size of the beach; there would be retractable bollards and key pad for entry; the guard rail would be replaced; there would be a new restroom building, lifeguard station and storage; path would connect other beach with natural play area; stairs would be rebuilt and made accessible; there would be a look-out stopping point at the stairs and also by the NSSD Building; there would be a seating area in the parking area; walkway would be created on the tableland and wildflowers added.

Members were concerned with the idea of a pathway connecting the two beaches and asked what materials would be used for construction. Ms. Kelly said they haven't really looked into specific details yet, but it would be stable, slip resistant, and made of natural materials.

Chairman Surkamer opened up the meeting to the audience for questions and comments. Residents were concerned with the following items: that groin removal would cause erosion and the Army Corps of Engineers needs to give permission for any changes; security and the costs associated with the project; the idea that accepting grant money would mean that the beach would have to be open to everyone; addition of more large rocks in the water would be dangerous for children.

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Ms. Kelly described the features of Concept B as follows: No swimming deck, sand volleyball or retractable bollards; restrooms would be renovated rather than rebuilt; there would be outdoor showers; original stairway would be renovated and a new one added; added access to south shelter from south beach; new building for yacht club; additional restrooms and storage area close to south beach; add limestone walls and stairs made of outcroppings. This Concept has more sand dunes and the tableland has a sensory garden.

At this point, Ms. Kelly invited everyone to step forward to examine the two Concepts and ask questions.

Ms. Kelly explained that restoration and management of the bluff is the key component to any plan that is decided upon. She asked Committee Members for their comments about the two concepts.

Members' ideas, comments and questions were as follows:

- Add another set of stairs by the dog beach, so dogs won't disturb people on the north and south beaches.
- Look into possibility of having a pedestrian path next to the road, on the other side of the guardrail near where Scranton meets the bluff. Ms. Kelly said they looked into this idea, but a pathway cannot be cantilevered into the wall and the guard rail needs to stay. She said possibly something freestanding can be built.
- Are the existing stairs in the right spot? Ms. Kelly said it would be less costly to keep stairs where they are currently.
- Need examples of boardwalks and better access to shelters. Ms. Kelly commented that they would come back in the future with path ideas and right now they are working on the actual concept.
- Would rather see the yacht club stay where it is rather than moved; would rather see less structures rather than more. It was noted that NSSD wants to add a storage facility right where the yacht club is now, so there could be a new building in a new location in the future.
- Don't think gardens are needed by tableland because it is a natural area now and should stay that way.
- Landscaping by entryways is important.
- Trees are not in great shape and some may be taken down in the future because of disease; maybe consider smaller pocket areas of wildflowers around some trees.

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- There were concerns with sunbathers and swimmers interfering with boat launching area, and lack of management; possibly use more rocks to better define the area.
- If the north beach is made more attractive, people might congregate there rather than by the boating area on the south beach.
- What happens in the winter when the green panels by the NSSD building lose their leaves? Ms. Kelly said that a metal picture silhouette will appear.
- Creating more beach to the north would attract more people. Where would these people park? Chairman Surkamer said that is a big concern and an issue which needs to be discussed with the City of Lake Bluff.
- Bike parking needs to be addressed. Ms. Kelly said that would be addressed in one of the concepts.

Ms. Kelly concluded the presentation and said that once a Concept is agreed upon, a prioritization plan is also put in place.

Tree Inventory

Committee Member Bill Hermann felt that having an inventory of trees along the bluff would be a good idea, and it can be accomplished through a GPS program. Larry McCotter, from LBOLA, said that when the Emerald Ash Borer really hits, a lot of trees will die. It is a good idea to identify them now, so everyone can see what might happen in the future. He said there are also a lot of Norway Maples on the bluff which are highly invasive.

Mr. McCotter said the cost to do a GPS inventory would be \$750.00, and all Committee Members were in favor of moving forward with this important project.

Final Report

There was discussion about when to complete the final report, and if another survey should be conducted. It was decided to finalize the report and present it to the Park Board at the May 20, 2013 Meeting. Bill Hermann will write the Final Report and attach the Upland Design report as Exhibit A, and Cliff's report as Exhibit B. All agreed that another survey after the May 15th open meeting was not necessary.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, motion was made by Member Hermann, seconded by Member Wallace, to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Approved this 20th day of May 2013
Board of Commissioners
Lake Bluff Park District